



Digital Identity Pilot Program

June 2026

California Department of Technology
<https://cdt.ca.gov>

CDT REPORT
Prepared for Members and
Committees of the California State Legislature _____



Executive Summary

Provision 1 of Item 7502-001-0001 in Chapter 69, Statutes of 2021 (SB 129) and Provision 9 of Item 7502-001-0001 in Section 232, Statutes of 2024 (SB 108) requires the California Department of Technology (CDT) to submit a report every six months to the Chairperson of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. The report is to contain information about agencies and departments that are currently participating or expected to participate in the Digital Identity pilot program and updates on the program's development and implementation.

This is the most recent report as of June 1, 2026.

CDT is working to make it easier for millions of California residents to access state programs, benefits, and discounts by providing a secure, inclusive, and privacy-preserving identity and eligibility verification platform – the California Identity Gateway – while reducing costs for partnering state and local government entities. This first-in-the-nation framework is scalable and extensible, eliminating the need for residents to provide their identity and manage multiple paper or plastic user IDs and credentials. CDT will continue expanding the platform through new agency partnerships, formal statewide policy, and sustainable service offerings.



Digital Identity Program Milestones (January through May 2026):

a) Delete Request and Opt-out Platform:

The California Privacy Protection Agency's (CalPrivacy) Delete Request Opt-Out Platform (DROP), created under Senate Bill 362 (the California Delete Act of 2023), empowers residents to request data deletion and opt out of tracking by data brokers through an online portal at privacy.ca.gov. The platform, which launched January 1, 2026, leverages the California Identity Gateway (IDG) to verify user residency, offering multiple verification pathways including Login.gov accounts and personal information entry to ensure accessibility across all Californians regardless of documentation status. Since its launch, the IDG has processed over 400,000 identity verification transactions on DROP, making it the largest-scale application of the platform to date and demonstrating significant consumer engagement with California's enhanced privacy protections.

b) Pilot Demonstration:

1. To expand the identity verification and single sign-on service to more Californians, the California Department of Technology (CDT), along with Caltrans, has continued to add new regional transit agencies to the pilot demonstration. Recently on-boarded agencies include San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Agency (SLORTA), El Dorado Transit, and Redding Area Bus Authority (RABA), while continuing support of previously launched verification services for age-based and veteran verification benefits with Monterey Salinas Transit, Santa Barbara Municipal Transit District, Sacramento Regional Transit, and Nevada County Transit. RABA represents a significant expansion of eligibility criteria by becoming the first transit agency to support CalFresh enrollment as a verification pathway, leveraging the IDG's integration with the CalFresh Confirm data source. CDT continues to expand the transit pilot through the Sacramento Area Council of



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Governments, which includes 28 member cities and counties in the Sacramento region, and CDT is preparing a major implementation project to on-board LA Metro, which will provide \$1,500 pre-paid transit cards to eligible riders rather than utilizing the current open loop payment card registration model.

2. CDT has launched a pilot in partnership with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) in the Bay Area to provide identity and attribute verification for the Clipper Start program. This pilot streamlines enrollment for approximately 600,000 eligible Bay Area residents to register and prove their enrollment in CalFresh as a qualifying criterion. MTC Clipper Start was officially the first application supported by the IDG to use the CalFresh enrollment criteria to offer benefits. The IDG has been integrated into the MTC Clipper Start application, a Salesforce-based platform, marking the first instance of the IDG being implemented in a Salesforce environment. This demonstrates the platform's flexibility and interoperability, as it was built with open standards and can support custom web applications across a variety of platforms. The program launched at the end of January 2026, and since its launch, the platform has processed over 1,300 identity verifications, averaging 29 verifications per day. The pilot's success will be measured based on cost savings and labor efficiencies achieved by MTC. If the pilot demonstrates positive results, MTC plans to expand the program's scope to other initiatives it administers, including the Express Lanes START program, which provides half-price tolls for qualifying drivers on the I-80 Express Lanes in Solano County and the I-880 Express Lanes in Alameda County.
3. CDT has enhanced the IDG's identity verification capabilities by improving user authentication based on feedback from the DROP program to verify California residency. CDT has also initiated requests with the Department of Social Services for development of an Application Program Interface (API) for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Program to enhance low-income proxy verification through CalWORKs enrollment, and with the Department of Motor Vehicles for an API integration to improve coverage of disabled and veteran individuals.



c) Client and Vendor Partnerships:

1. CDT remains engaged with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to secure expanded API access to allow support for benefit programs that require verification of distinguished service history and disability status of veterans seeking state benefits. CDT anticipates further activity in the coming months.
2. CDT is collaborating with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on the Concurrent Application System (CAS) to enable Californians to apply for multiple utility discount programs with income-based eligibility verification through the IDG. Working with utility partners including PG&E and Southern California Edison, CDT is refining technical and business requirements for categorical and income-based attribute verification. Phase 2 discussions are expected to accelerate in the coming months, positioning the IDG for full technical integration into CAS aligned with the CPUC's 2027 implementation roadmap.

d) Verifiable credentials and digital wallets:

California is piloting a state digital wallet feature as part of its Digital Identity (ID) strategy, allowing residents to store verified mobile credentials on their smartphones. CDT is in active development to enhance the IDG's capability to read verifiable credentials such as mobile driver's licenses and mobile passports from users' devices. Once this reading capability is established, CDT will further enhance the IDG to support the issuance and revocation of mobile credentials. This effort is being undertaken in partnership with the Office of Data and Innovation (ODI), with plans to launch a pilot later this year.



Conclusion

Budget Status:

To date, the project has incurred \$2,699,126 in costs for hiring and vendor services.

Future Progress:

CDT is advancing administrative and budgetary steps to formalize the Digital Identity program as a statewide service. CDT is developing a digital identity rate card in preparation for a full-service offering with charge-back authority. By making progress toward centralized provision of identity verification services, the state will be able to reduce redundant IT spending when different departments must verify the same individual multiple times. Additionally, by continuing to build out the program's ecosystem of eligibility attribute integrations, customer departments will be able to confidently leverage information the state already has to streamline applications, reduce burden, and target fraud. The IDG's consent-based, data-minimizing architecture ensures that the resident remains in control of their information and privacy.

CDT is formalizing its approach to digital identity into statewide policy, building on iteratively developed Digital Identity Guidance. CDT is currently in an industry feedback phase, gathering input and reactions from industry and outside experts. CDT recently cosponsored a workshop with the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change to discuss California's approach with international, state, and local government leaders, along with experts across nonprofit and academia. CDT will revise the guidance based on feedback and convert it into statewide policy by the end of 2026.

CDT will expand the footprint of the Digital Identity program to serve even more Californians through new and existing partnerships and enhancing the program's service offering. As customers like CalPrivacy's DROP application bring new use cases and greater scale, the accessibility and resilience of the service grows. ODI is



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conducting ongoing user experience research to inform CDT's approach. CDT continues to engage with digital identity safety and technology groups, policy and research institutes, and governmental organizations to further the program's goal of expanding secure, equitable, and cost-effective access to public services.